

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, CE

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION TO SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR ON KOREA

REF: COLOMBO 3390

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM (IO) CALLED IN SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE OCTOBER 24 TO EMPHASIZE SPECIAL IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO KOREAN ITEM AT UN AND SOLICIT MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SUPPORT FROM SRI LANKA. KANAKARATNE SAID HE WOULD REPORT CONVERSATION TO COLOMBO AND WOULD DISCUSS MATTER TELEPHONICALLY WITH SRI LANKA UN REPRESENTATIVE.

2. BUFFUM SAID HE WISHED TO BE SURE SRI LANKA IS AWARE OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO KOREAN ISSUE BECAUSE IT CAN AFFECT THE PEACE OF NORTHEAST ASIA AND INVOLVES IMPORTANT U.S. SECURITY INTERESTS. HE REVIEWED THE
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PROPOSAL IN OUR RESOLUTION CALLING FOR TERMINATION OF UN

COMMAND WHILE PRESERVING THE ARMISTICE AND THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL THAT THE CONFERENCE COULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR REDUCING TENSIONS ON THE PENINSULA. HE STRESSED U.S. COULD NOT UNDERTAKE DISCUSSIONS ON FUTURE OF KOREA WITH NORTH KOREANS ALONE LEAVING OUT REPUBLIC OF KOREA. HE EMPHASIZED BILATERAL NATURE OF U.S. TROOP PRESENCE. HE DESCRIBED ALGERIAN RESOLUTION AS AN OBSTACLE TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, NOTED

THAT IT DENIED THE ROK ANY ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SECURITY OF THE PENINSULA AND WAS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES.

3. BUFFUM NOTED U.S. ATTACHES INCREASING IMPORTANCE TO VOTES AT UN AND IS MORE AND MORE INCLINED TO VIEW SUCH VOTES AS AN INDICATION OF A COUNTRY'S WILLINGNESS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT U.S. CONCERNS ON ISSUES WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO US, WHICH WOULD BE REFLECTED IN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS.

4. HE SUGGESTED THAT EVEN A TRADITIONALLY NON-ALIGNED STATE LIKE SRI LANKA, AFTER EXAMINING THE MERITS OF OUR CASE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT OUR RESOLUTION EVEN IF IT DID NOT WANT TO VOTE AGAINST THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION. AT THE VERY MINIMUM, BUFFUM ASKED FOR SRI LANKA'S SUPPORT ON THE PROCEDURAL ISSUE OF WHICH RESOLUTION WOULD BE BROUGHT TO A VOTE FIRST NOTING THAT SUCH SUPPORT WOULD MEAN ONLY ADHERENCE TO NORMAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES. BUFFUM STATED THAT WE COULD UNDERSTAND A CONSISTENT NON-ALIGNED POSITION BUT WE COULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDER SUPPORT FOR THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION AND FAILURE TO SUPPORT OURS AS A TRULY NON-ALIGNED POSITION.

5. AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE SAID THAT SMALL COUNTRIES LIKE SRI LANKA ARE INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN REDUCING TENSIONS WHEREVER THEY MIGHT OCCUR. HE THOUGHT COLOMBO WOULD LOOK AT THE TWO RESOLUTIONS IN THAT LIGHT. HE NOTED THAT APART FROM THE MERITS OF THE CASE, SRI LANKA HAD TIES WITH THE NON-ALIGNED AND WAS TO BE HOST TO THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE NEXT YEAR. THESE CONSIDERATIONS CARRIED WEIGHT. BUFFUM SAID WE FRANKLY HAD INCREASING DOUBTS
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ABOUT WHAT CONSTITUTED NON-ALIGNMENT WHEN WE SAW NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN LIMA ADMIT NORTH KOREA WHILE IT EXCLUDED SOUTH KOREA. THE AMBASSADOR WAS INTERESTED IN THE VOTING POSITIONS OF VARIOUS NEIGHBORING STATES AND THOUGHT THAT HIS COUNTRY'S POSITION WOULD PROBABLY BE SOMETHING LIKE THAT OF NEPAL (WHICH IS PLANNING TO ABSTAIN ON BOTH RESOLUTIONS). HE WAS INTERESTED IN BUFFUM'S COMMENTS ON GROWING COSPONSORSHIP FOR OUR RESOLUTION INCLUDING

AFRICANS,AND ASKED FOR A LIST OF THE COSPONSORS, WHICH WAS
GIVEN HIM.

6. FOR USUN: REQUEST MISSION CONTACT SRI LANKA MISSION
IN APPROPRIATE MANNER TO ASCERTAIN POSITION ON PROCEDURAL
ISSUE.

7. FOR COLOMBO: REQUEST YOU CONTINUE MONITOR SRI LANKA
POSITION. OUR INTENTION REMAINS TO HOLD THEM TO AN
ABSTENTION ON THE TWO SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTIONS. KISSINGER

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